

## THE DAILY JOURNAL.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1888.

WASHINGTON OFFICE—513 Fourteenth St.

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TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

By Mail.

One year, without Sunday.....\$12.00

Six months, without Sunday.....7.00

Three months, without Sunday.....3.50

One month, without Sunday.....1.00

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more attention than his personal importance or former position in the community warrants, or than he would ever have received had not his crime been one which threatened the safety of the ballot-box and imperiled the rights of every citizen. It became necessary to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice, not only as a punishment for their own acts, but as a warning to all possible imitators that interference with elections will not be tolerated. In the course of this tedious process Coy necessarily achieved a notoriety which, to a man of ordinary sensibilities, would have been scarcely endurable, but which he seemed to exult in. Nothing has shown the caliber of this Democratic boss more than his disposition to flaunt himself in the face of the public, and his apparent inability to comprehend his deep disgrace. He is a coarse-grained rascal, by his own confessions, and people whose pleasure over the decision of the court is accompanied by any qualms of pity for the criminal are wasting their sympathy.

## THE GUILTY GANG.

The Sentinel, although a little slow in coming to time, rallies nobly to the defense of the tally-sheet forgers at last. As long as there was a hook to hang a hope on that the trial and verdict might be set aside on a question of jurisdiction the organ managed to preserve its self-control, but the decision of the Supreme Court put an end to the hopes of the convicts and their sympathizers alike. Yesterday the Sentinel "cut loose," and its editorial page contained little else but abuse of Judge Woods and District Attorney Sellers. As a matter of record, and that our readers may judge of the extent of the Sentinel's reformation under the new regime, we quote a few sentences:

"Some of the methods employed to secure their [Coy and Bernhamer's] conviction were extraordinary and unjustified. The course of the preceding judge was scandalous in the last degree."

"[It] [the Sentinel] can only pronounce the course of Judge Woods in these election cases as infamous, and the conduct of the district attorney as reprehensible in the extreme."

"The course they [Woods and Sellers] have seen fit to pursue in this business is discreditable in the last degree. A more flagrant perversion of the machinery of justice to the service of partisan and personal ends has never been witnessed than that of which these men have been guilty."

These extracts from different articles are all in the same spirit and on the same line. They are an attack on the judge and district attorney and an attempt to represent Coy and Bernhamer as the probably innocent victims of a legal conspiracy and prosecution. This is the old song in a new key, and shows that the promised reformation of the Sentinel was only skin-deep. Honest Democrats who have been thinking the party organ was waiting for a good opportunity to denounce the tally-sheet forgers and their perpetrators must have been sorely disappointed at last to see it jump on the court instead of the convicts. It has been jumping on courts so long that it jumps that way from force of habit.

We fully agree with the Sentinel that "if these men were really engaged in a conspiracy to falsify the results of the election, the penalty that has been visited upon them is none too severe." That they were so engaged has been proven by the only form of trial known to our laws, and proven to the satisfaction of a jury of twelve honest, intelligent men, nearly one half of whom were of the same political party as the defendants. Lawyers are paid to assert the innocence of their clients, even though they know them guilty, and after prison doors have closed upon them. But what unspeakable rot it is for a political organ, in the supposed interest of its party, to assert the probable innocence of men who, after every possible opportunity to defend themselves, and aided by the best counsel that the party purse could employ, have been found guilty on the oaths of twelve honest men. This is bad enough; but what will be thought of the Sentinel's course in thus defending the convicts when it is known that they themselves offered to plead guilty, on certain conditions, before the first trial? This fact is now made public for the first time. A short time prior to the first trial, in July, 1887, all the defendants, except Sullivan and his two deputies, offered to plead guilty in open court on condition that none of them should be imprisoned, and that the aggregate fines imposed should not exceed \$2,500. This offer was made to the government attorneys, and declined by them for good and sufficient reasons. If it had been accepted, all the defendants, with the exceptions above noted, would have pleaded guilty; yet now, when two of them are convicted by regular process of law, the party organ dares to say that most fair-minded men doubt their guilt. The statement is an insult to every honest man in the community.

The attack on Judge Woods and District Attorney Sellers is unfounded, malicious and outrageous. The district attorney was placed in a somewhat trying position, although the path of duty was plain before him all the time. As government prosecutor it became his duty to prosecute men notoriously of his own political persuasion for crimes notoriously done in the presumed interest of his party. It became his duty to ignore politics, and to prosecute the defendants to convict, and he did. He deserves credit and honor for having done his duty so well. If he ever comes before the people for an elective office he ought to receive two Republican votes for every Democratic vote he loses on this account. As for Judge Woods, he needs no vindication. There he stands, sustained at every point and vindicated again and again by the Circuit and Supreme Courts. In the trial of the defendants he was more than fair; he was liberal. If he has erred at all it was in the direction of leniency before and since the conviction. He would have been fully justified in giving the defendants the full sentence of the law, but he did not, and he might have sent Coy to Michigan City three months ago, but he kindly let him remain here and continue his political bossism from the county jail. The defendants and their friends ought to feel very grateful to Judge Woods for the manner in which he has tempered justice with mercy, and instead of aspersing his motives and reviling his character, they ought to thank God they did not fall into the hands of a stern judge. As for

his legal rulings, they have all been endorsed and fathered by the highest court in the land, and if the gang want to attack anybody on that score let them attack the Supreme Court of the United States. If they insist on biting a file let them try their teeth on the biggest one of the lot.

## COY'S PARDON.

Sim Coy says a petition for his pardon has received thousands of signatures, not only here but throughout the State, and will be forwarded to Washington at once. He says further that "his political friends," meaning Democrats now in Washington, "have seen the President in person and obtained from him a promise to take all the papers in the case and review them carefully." This is notice to the public that the efforts to defeat the ends of justice are to be continued. The convicts and their sympathizers do not give it up yet. Having failed to override the judiciary, they will try to debauch the executive. The Sentinel's attack on Judge Woods, and its bold assertion that most fair-minded men doubt the convicts to be guilty, is evidently part of the movement to manufacture political sympathy for them and bring a pressure to bear on the President for their pardon. We expect to see this movement continue and spread. It seems a petition for the pardon of the convicts is already in circulation and Coy says it has received thousands of signatures here and throughout the State. We have no doubt that, if industriously circulated, it will receive many thousands more, and every man who signs it will be a public enemy. There are considerably more than 200,000 Democrats in this State, and we have no doubt that at least 100,000 of them, if they had a chance, would sign a petition for the pardon of the convicts. The remainder would represent the honest element of the party. The signers would represent the element that believes in Coy and Coyism. Ninety-nine per cent. of the signers would neither know nor care anything about the facts or the law of the case, but would ask for the pardon of these men because they are Democrats and have been convicted for doing party work. If the petition is circulated we have no doubt it will be very numerously signed, and Coy says it will be forwarded to Washington and presented to the President by "my political friends."

Will the President pardon them? That is an interesting question. A tremendous pressure will be brought to bear on him to induce him to do so, but will he dare to do it? On the one hand will be a plausible petition full of falsehood and misrepresentation, numerous signed and pretending to represent public sentiment, backed by the clamor of the worst element of his party and by the machine in Indiana; on the other hand will be the interests of public justice, of honest politics and the great silent, conservative mass of people, who believe that the law ought to be enforced and crime punished. Between these forces and motives the President will have to choose. "What will he do? As to what he ought to do there can be no shadow of doubt. If he is half as brave and honest as his friends claim, he ought to refuse to interfere. He ought to say to those who present the petition, "Gentlemen, these men, after a full and fair trial, in which they were earnestly defended, have been convicted by a jury of a flagrant crime against the laws of the land. The jurisdiction of the court that tried them, and the validity of the legal proceedings have been affirmed at every point by one tribunal after another, including, at last, the Supreme Court of the United States. I see no ground for impugning the wisdom and fairness of the court, or the honesty of the jury, and I therefore decline to interfere." The President might improve the occasion to rebuke the dirty partisans who come to him with a request for executive clemency based on an appeal to the lowest and worst side of his nature—an appeal to make a mockery of justice and to fling the doors wide open for the perpetration of election frauds—but perhaps that would be expecting too much. We have indicated what the President ought to do; but the question still remains, what will he do?

## THE YAWP OF A FOOL.

Some fellow, signing himself "Republican," in an Indianapolis letter to the Chicago Tribune, reads the riot act to the Indianapolis Journal because it published a call for a meeting to organize a Harrison club in this city. The precious fool says:

"This morning the Journal contains a call for citizens favorable to General Harrison to meet and organize a club to work for his nomination here and at the convention. This is the beginning of a movement to be extended to every town in the State where the Journal and State central committee can find enough followers to organize, and show a disposition to have their way at all hazards. The ignoring or trampling upon the rights of others always leads to disaster in a free government, and is therefore portentous of the greatest evil to the Republican party when adopted as the policy of its leaders. The reckless conduct of the Harrison managers, imperiling as it does the existence of the party organization in this State, must have some desperate purpose."

What do the honorable gentlemen who signed this call, and who attended the meeting on "Monday night, think of the impertinence and insult of such stuff as this? It is "a desperate purpose" to aid in the nomination of General Harrison! It is "ignoring and trampling upon the rights of others," and liable to bring "disaster in a free government," for men who believe that Benjamin Harrison would be a creditable and available candidate for President of the United States to say so, and to meet together publicly and peaceably to see what can be done to bring this about?

This delightful "Republican" proceeds: "I know that letters have been received here from many counties asking that a Gresham meeting be called to effect an organization, but in every instance it has been discouraged, even to the extent of preventing the organization of a local club, his friends being determined that they will do nothing to jeopardize party harmony. If trouble is to come to the party in this way, they do not propose to be responsible for it."

Every Republican in Indianapolis and in the State will at once recognize the utter absurdity of this twaddle. The Journal would not like to believe that it could have the approbation of Judge Gresham; but we reprint it to show Republicans the lengths to which personal malice and partisan desire are

willing to go in their efforts to injure the prospects of General Harrison's nomination, finding in the Chicago Tribune an eager and willing ally. We do not believe "Republican" to be a Republican; we are quite sure he is not; the letter is the work of one who wants to see the Republican party defeated in this State. No Republican would so wantonly insult the entire party, which has, by official action, made Benjamin Harrison its candidate for the presidential nomination, and instructed its delegated representatives to exhaust every honorable means to bring about that result in the Chicago convention. Such an attack as we have quoted will have the effect to stimulate the organization of Harrison clubs all over the State. We hope to hear of one in every county and considerable town and city in Indiana.

The call for the formation of a Harrison Club, and the magnificent meeting resulting therefrom was simply a manifestation of the high esteem in which General Harrison is held by his neighbors and an indication of the earnestness with which they intend to promote his nomination as a presidential candidate by all means in their power. The Journal begs to say to the Chicago Tribune, and the "Republican" scarecrow it yesterday paraded, that men like William Wallace, Gen. McGinnis, Gen. Foster, Hugh Hanna, John B. Conner, Mayor Denny, Judge Walker, and the hundreds of others, have no "desperate purposes" in their minds. They are not cut-throats; and they do not propose to do anything to overthrow free government. The Tribune and its little fool should calm their perturbed spirits.

The campaign liar is unusually ubiquitous and fertile this year. His latest appearance is in the Kansas City Journal, which prints an alleged interview with Governor Porter, dated in Kansas, where the Governor was lately visiting on business. He makes the Governor talk like a swabstick. Of course the interview is absolutely false. No such conversation was ever had with him, at any time or place. Governor Porter is at all times, and under all circumstances, a gentleman, and he is a man of scrupulous personal and political honor. But, we presume, the "interview" will go the rounds, and be eagerly swallowed by those who are interested in the development of a quarrel among Indiana Republicans.

A SENSATIONAL dispatch in the Cincinnati Enquirer from Chicago says that Hon. James N. Huston, chairman of the State central committee, has written a number of letters to delegates in Illinois and elsewhere, in which he says that Judge Gresham could not carry Indiana. Mr. Huston's attention having been called to the statement, that gentleman authorizes the Journal to say that it is a malicious lie from beginning to end; that he has not written a single letter to a delegate from Illinois, or from any other State. The publication is simply a part of the plot to embroil the Republicans of Indiana in a quarrel.

A GRESHAM Club has been organized in Chicago, and one is reported to be forming somewhere else; but according to a "Republican" in the Chicago Tribune, it is evidence of "a desperate purpose," and "jeopardizes party harmony," and is likely to "lead to disaster in a free government" for the friends of General Harrison in Indianapolis and in Indiana to organize a club or clubs in behalf of his nomination. Well, if a cataclysm is to overtake us, we will try and be resigned. Boom the clubs.

ONE of the best things about the Supreme Court decision in the Coy-Bernhamer case is the decisive and incisive way in which that high tribunal, through Justice Miller, crushes into smithereens the miserable sophistry by which the first trial, involving the real merits of the crime committed, was interfered with. It is like a breath of ozone to read a judicial opinion based on the principles of justice in comparison with one based on technicalities and trivialities.

THE signal-service officer records the temperature of Monday night as 36 degrees above zero, and talks of the narrow escape from frost. Farmers living near the city who tell of corn and garden vegetables frozen stiff even under covering, and bemoan the loss of the grape crop, are of the opinion that the narrow escape was just wide enough for Indianapolis alone.

It was quite natural that State Geologist Thompson should write Senator Voorhees a letter endorsing the latter's course. Thompson served in the Southern army, and he might have said in his letter to Voorhees as he has his sentiments and mine are in close harmony.

So far as the Turpie case is concerned, the Journal said when Turpie was admitted to his seat, that that practically ended the matter. But we still think the time may come when the Congress of the United States may find it necessary to go behind the returns, and make faithful inquiry into the frauds and crimes upon which some men claim seats in the national legislature.

THE Democratic members of the City Council probably missed their last opportunity when they failed to serenade their friend Coy last night. It would have been a delicate evidence of their regard had they met under the jail window to warble:

"We shall meet, but we shall miss thee; There will be one vacant chair."

THE public is informed that Judge McNutt was "terribly in earnest," and made a very "powerful argument." The report indicates that the Judge's time was largely taken up with "stripping" Judge Claypool, and possibly referring to him as "Old Sol" Claypool. That is about the height, the breadth and length of Judge McNutt's "argument."

THE Sentinel made a violent attack on the women yesterday; but perhaps it should not be held strictly accountable for its ungallant conduct. The Sentinel was mad over that Supreme Court decision, and had to take its

wrath out on somebody. It would have been safer, however, and more judicious, to slap some one who couldn't talk back.

THE Sentinel refrained from "damning the cowardly souls" of the United States Supreme Court in so many words, but its shameless denunciation of Judge Woods, for rendering a decision which was afterwards sustained by that court, is proof enough that it would have used that chaste language once more, had it dared.

THE Sentinel is a whitewashed scoundrel after all. The recent improvement in its editorial language led to a hope that its conversion to ways of decency was more than skin-deep; but yesterday's outrageous attack upon the federal court and the open defense of the tally-sheet forgers proves that the old uncleanness is all there.

THE Journal is decidedly in favor of the employment of home labor in home work. There are plenty of American citizens who can be employed, and these should be given the preference over gangs of unnaturalized "contracted" foreign laborers.

SENATOR VOORHEES has written a letter to State Geologist Thompson in which he announces himself unconditionally and enthusiastically for the choice of the Indiana Democratic—Oliver Isaac Gray, in this particular instance.

"PADDING" the school enumeration is an old trick of Allen county. The amount of money the Democratic tricksters of that county have swindled the school fund out of, robbing other counties, is not small.

The Methodist General Conference has postponed the election of additional bishops until Thursday of next week. It is charged that the postponement was to give more time for "electioneering."

The eulogy of Mr. Ingersoll's eulogy of Roscoe Conkling calls to mind the fact that the latter gentleman was capable of expressing himself with equal grace of style on similar occasions. With the exception of his reference to Christianity, the following extract from his speech in the Senate on the death of Oliver P. Morton, reads as if it might be Ingersoll's own: "Mr. President, in ancient times those nearest the dead spoke in their funerals. Fathers celebrated the bravery and achievements of their sons, and the graces and virtues of wives and daughters were publicly recited and extolled by those who loved and mourned them most."

These customs have been banished by modern civilization or modern manners. Now the fondest lips are sealed and the ashes and the fame of the departed are no longer committed to those who would shield and treasure them with the tender partiality of bereaved affliction. "It is difficult to note a change so great, in a matter so deep-rooted in the heart of man, so allied and nurtured by instinct and innate emotion, without wonder that the same beings in different generations should be moved to such different manifestations of the same sentiment as these."

"Death is nature's supreme abhorrence. The dark valley, with its weird and solemn shadows, illumined by the rays of Christianity, is still the ground which man shudders to approach. The grim portals and the narrow house seem in the lapse of centuries to have gained rather than lost in impressive and foreboding horror."

THE Philadelphia Call reaches the sage conclusion that a man's wife alone knows how big a fool he is. Yes, and luckily for him, she is the only one who can be trusted not to "give it away."

## POLITICAL NOTES.

CHICAGO NEWS: If the Indiana Democrats had not been so slow about erecting that Benckrid statue they might now hope to have it nominated for Vice-president at St. Louis next month.

PITTSBURGH special to Chicago Tribune: Gen. A. L. Pearson, who has been a mugwump since the Garfield campaign, has come out for Gresham, who, he says, is the most available candidate yet named.